

NorthMet Mining Project and Land Exchange EIS

EPA Items Batch 3b – Presentation Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM CT
DNR Central Office, 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. Welcome/Agenda check
2. Process Check-in
3. EPA Remaining Issues Table

3a. Wetland Related Items

Preparatory Deliverables

- ◆ Response to EPA Comment #19: criteria for wetland fragmentation loss [Issue 21]
- ◆ Response to EPA Comment #20: 20% threshold for fragmentation [Issue 22]

➤ Issue #21

Comment #19 criteria for wetland fragmentation loss

➤ Issue #22

Comment #20 20% threshold for fragmentation

3b. Water Related Items - Amended from Batch 3

Preparatory Deliverables

AMENDED Response to EPA Comment #7: NPDES permitting [Issue 2]

➤ Issue #2

During active mining and post-closure, water quality standard exceedances will be prevented through on-site treatment or other measures, before discharge to waters of the U.S. --SDS approach to monitoring

3c. Water Related Items

Preparatory Deliverables

Response to EPA Comment #2: Water Quality - waste rock and acid rock drainage [Issue 1]

Response to EPA comment #32: TB groundwater capture [Issue 3]

PFEIS Figure 5.2.2-7: TB Containment System [Issue 3]

Response to EPA Comment #14: Duration of Treatment [Issue 6]

NorthMet Project FEIS Duration of Water Treatment at Mine Site and Plant Site Rationale for Thematic Response (Co-leads, November 17, 2014) [Issue 6]

Response to EPA Comment #11: Water Modeling - Partridge River flow [Issue 9]

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➤ **Issue #1**

Acid generation may occur from pits, pit walls, waste rock and lean ore piles, but will be managed on-site through collection, treatment, disposal, and use of adaptive management as needed.

➤ **Issue #3**

A groundwater capture and containment system will be installed at the tailings basin.

➤ **Issue #6**

a) The water model is not designed to estimate the duration of active water treatment. The EIS will clarify this, b) the role of financial assurance and adaptive management in ensuring that water quality standards are met, and DNR's intent to require the project proposer to pilot, and potentially implement, passive treatment as a permit condition if the project proceeds.

➤ **Issue #9**

The sensitivity of water quality impacts to groundwater base flow at the mine site is being investigated.

- Action: Provide sensitivity analysis to EPA for review.

4. Other

5. Next Meeting: Batch 3b Resolution – Thursday, March 19, 2015, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM CT